

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

7/18/79 OUTGOING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 STATE 185457  
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STATE 185457

INFO OUT-EE ADD-DB PA-05 /020 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:CHERAYSHAW:NAS  
APPROVED BY ARA:ROGUZMAN  
ARA/ECA:GWRUGER

GREAT SATISFACTION OVER THE CEREMONY HELD AT THE PARLOR BUILDING. THEY BELIEVED THAT THEY HAVE ENDED THE TRIP SUPPORT AMONG AMERICAN WOMEN IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE GOA ON THE STATE OF THE DISAPPEARED. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THEY FEARED THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO REPRISALS WHEN THEY RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES. VANCE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ANEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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STATE 185457

E.O. 12065 N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS

DECONTROL

Argentina

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RALPH GUZMAN MET JULY 17 WITH JUDITH HELLER DE PARGAMENT AND SOFIA REBECCA SLODOPOLOSKY DE EPELDAIM, MEMBERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS GROUP. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY WENDY TURNBULL OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. THE TWO ARGENTINE WOMEN HAD PARTICIPATED IN A CEREMONY ORGANIZED BY AMNESTY HELD THE SAME DAY IN THE RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING IN WHICH PROMINENT AMERICAN WOMEN WERE PRESENTED WITH SCARVES BEARING THE NAMES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN ARGENTINA.

2. THE TWO WOMEN DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF DISAPPEARANCES IN ARGENTINA AND THE MAJOR OBSTACLES THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THE WHEREABOUTS OF THEIR MISSING RELATIVES, PARTICULARLY THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO HONOR PAROLE PETITIONS AND THE SMOKE SCREEN OF DISINFORMATION PUT OUT BY GOA AGENCIES ON THE ISSUE.

THEY WERE DISTURBED BY THE RECENT SPEECH OF GENERAL VIDELA IN WHICH HE SPOKE OF THE DISAPPEARED AS "THOSE WHO WILL BE FORGOTTEN FOREVER." THEY DID NOT ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ALL OF THE DISAPPEARED ARE DEAD AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON ARGENTINA IN ADVANCE OF THE IACHR VISIT IN SEPTEMBER MAY RESULT IN THE REAPPEARANCE OF SOME OF THE MISSING. THEY SAID THAT WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW IS "WHERE ARE OUR SONS, WHAT CONDITION THEY ARE IN, WHAT CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THEM, AND WHAT CHANCE HAVE THEY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES." THE WOMEN EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE THAT THE SENIOR HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER POSITION WILL BE FILLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE VISIT OF THE IACHR. MS. TURNBULL ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF SUPPLYING NAMES OF PERSONS RELEASED UNDER RIGHT OF OPTION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SO THAT AI CAN ASSIST IN PLACING PAROLEES WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S.

3. DR. GUZMAN EXPRESSED OUR DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THE FLIGHT OF THE TWO MOTHERS AND THE MANY OTHER ARGENTINES WHO SEEK INFORMATION ON DISAPPEARED RELATIVES. HE SAID THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS ON THIS PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT HE FULLY RECOGNIZE THE VERY HIGH PRIORITY OF FILLING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER POSITION AND ARE WORKING TO ACHIEVE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE PROMISED THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLYING AI WITH NAMES OF PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE GIVEN CERTIFICATES OF PROBABILITY UNDER THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM.

4. THE TWO ARGENTINE WOMEN AND MS. TURNBULL EXPRESSED

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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